

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2
CH-742
Faulkner
Private

First quarter 19th century

The Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is a remarkably well-preserved structure located in the Faulkner vicinity. Characterized by its steeply pitched roof, early or original horizontal siding under the gables, and the survival of original nailers for horizontal siding throughout, the frame structure is supported on a continuous rubble stone foundation. One of the structure's most remarkable features is the surviving evidence of smoke, presumably used as a method of curing tobacco. The process of fire cured tobacco was prompted by the European preference for "bright" tobacco, a highly-colored, streaked tobacco that acquired a smoky flavor. Fire-curing was a process in which fires were set in the floor of a tobacco barn. In the firing process, the tobacco is of a brighter color and is more quickly prepared for packing. During the 1830's demand for the bright, fancy cured tobacco dropped although fire curing continued into the 1840's when the inherent threat to barns associated fire curing and the growing popularity of flue-cured tobacco made most planters turn away from the earlier method. However, firing to counteract the effects of dampness and humidity that could cause mildew.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

2. Location

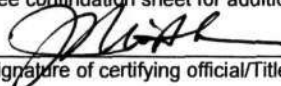
street & number 9830 Johnsontown Road ☐ not for publication

city or town La Plata ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Charles code 017 zip code 20646

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).


Signature of certifying official/Title

11-3-11
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)
Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1820

~~1930s~~

Significant Dates

Ca. 1820

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)
Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland

**number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Nineteenth-Century Maryland Tobacco Barn,
1800-1830s

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD - Horizontal siding

WOOD - Vertical siding

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.04

Popes Creek, MD USGS Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1									
	Zone		Easting			Northing			
2									

3									
	Zone		Easting			Northing			
4									

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lori O. Thursby/Senior Architectural Historian

Organization TEC Inc.

date August 31, 2009

street & number 619 Severn Avenue, Suite 202

telephone (410) 990-0299

city or town Annapolis

state MD

zip code 21403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Garrett and Donna Glover

street & number P.O. Box 326, 9830 Johnsontown Road

telephone (310) 753-1941

city or town La Plata

state MD

zip code 20646

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

The Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is an early-nineteenth century tobacco barn that provides evidence of the use of fires for curing tobacco. The barn was constructed ca. 1820 at the edge of an agricultural field on the north side of Johnsontown Road near La Plata, Maryland. The framing of the structure consists of hand-hewn principal members with wood peg connections and pit-sawn intermediate members secured with wrought nails. Large down braces extending from plate to sill reinforce the framing. The tier poles above the plate are blackened from the presence of smoke in the barn. The exterior is sheathed in vertical board siding except on the faces of the steeply-pitched gable roof, which is sheathed with horizontal siding. The barn's framing system and nail patterns reveal that it was once sheathed entirely with horizontal siding. Shed additions were appended to the longitudinal sides of the barn in the 1950s. Overall, the barn is in good condition.

General Description:

The Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is located approximately three miles south of La Plata, in central Charles County. The barn is situated on the north side of Johnsontown Road, 0.9 mile east of Crain Highway (U.S. 301). It is more than 900 feet from the road, standing at the northwest corner of a field. A dirt and gravel two-track driveway located between this field and another field to the west leads past the tobacco barn to the associated residence. The house is at the end of the 1,200-foot-long driveway, and the barn is on the east side of the driveway, about 200 feet from the dwelling. Forest is to the west, beyond the driveway, and to the north. The site of the barn slopes gently to the northwest.

This barn was constructed in two major building periods: the early-nineteenth century construction of the original 24-by-40-foot core; and the mid-twentieth century construction of lean-to shed additions. The original section terminates in a steeply-pitched gable roof oriented on an east-west axis. An entry is positioned on each gable end. Originally single doorways, both of these entries were enlarged to double-leaf doorways in the twentieth century to accommodate a tractor and other large equipment. The 16-foot-wide lean-to additions extend the full length of the north and south sides of the barn. Each shed has wide openings on the east and west ends. The additions have shed roofs.

Oral accounts and physical evidence suggest past use of fires in the Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2. The current owners stated that trenches were dug into the north and south sides of the floor in the original core, next to the stone foundation (Glover 2009). A row of wood fires would have been lit in the trenches. At an unknown time, the trenches were filled in with dirt. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

upper tiers in the original section are blackened, signifying the presence of smoke in the barn. Fire-curing tobacco was known to have been practiced in parts of Southern Maryland for a short period, primarily in the 1820s and 1830s. This barn was constructed ca. 1820.

The primary structural members of the heavy timber framing system of the original core are hand hewn with mortise and tenon joints secured by wood pegs. The primary vertical posts are centered on eight-foot bays. Down braces, two at each gable end wall and four on each longitudinal wall, reinforce the framing. The down braces extend from sill to plate. The sills are raised from the floor by groups of relatively large stones placed at the corners and beneath some portions of the sills. At the corners, the sills are lapped and secured by wrought nails or wood pegs. The sills on the east and west sides do not span the doorways in these walls. The sills were discontinued across the doorways when the openings were enlarged in the twentieth century. An additional sill bisects the barn; it extends north to south halfway between the east and west sides. This sill also serves as the dividing line of the floor of the barn; the west half of the barn has a dirt floor and the east half is covered by wood planks.

Each of the elevations of the core of the barn incorporates a system of vertical studs on two-foot centers. The studs are pit-sawn and are secured to the framing by wrought nails. Pit-sawn horizontal rails are tenoned into notches at the front corners of the primary posts and fastened by wrought nails. Tier poles are lapped to the posts on four-foot centers. The three lower tiers consist of stripped logs and the rest are pit-sawn timber. The first level of tiers is approximately 5'-5" above the sill. The average vertical spacing of the tiers is 3'-6" feet.

The roof framing of the original section is supported by the extended tie beams, which are notched onto a girt. Each pair of pit-sawn rafters is joined at the ridge by half-lapped joints, and secured by four pit-sawn collar beams. The average spacing of the rafter pairs is four feet and the average vertical spacing of the collars is 3'-6" feet. Diagonal wind braces are fastened to the underside of the rafters. The original roof cladding was probably wood shingles as evidenced by the rows of pit-sawn horizontal shingle nailers spaced six to eight inches apart on the top faces of the rafters. The north slope of the roof is currently clad in standing seam metal and the south slope is clad with corrugated metal panels.

The exterior of the core section of the barn is sheathed with a combination of vertical board siding on the walls and horizontal siding on the gable faces. The horizontal siding is believed to be original to the barn; the presence of nail holes in vertical lines down the middle of the outer faces of the primary posts and the studs indicates the barn was sheathed in horizontal siding. Each gable face is pierced by a rectangular louver. The present vertical siding, which has gaps between the boards for air circulation, on the gable end walls was applied in the 1950s (Glover 2009). Honeysuckle vines cover the east gable end; the vines now help to support that wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

The shed additions were appended to the north and south sides of the barn in the 1950s (Glover 2009). Each shed was constructed similarly. The sheds employ round logs as the primary supports. The rest of the framing of the sheds, including the tiers, consists of circular-sawn lumber. The tiers span the width of the sheds, resting on top of circular-sawn rails attached to the outer faces of the original section and to the outer walls of the sheds. The former are secured by wire nails and the latter are set into notches on the outer faces of the round logs and fastened with wire-cut nails. The north shed has 10 rooms and three tiers, and the south shed has 10 rooms and two tiers. The difference in the number of tiers is due to the difference in the floor-to-ceiling height of the sheds: the ground slopes to the north and west so the elevation of the floor of the north shed is approximately one foot lower than the elevation of the floor of the south shed. A pintel on the round log framing the shed opening on the west elevation indicates the former presence of doors in these locations.

A flat plate supports the rafters of each shed. The rafters are notched onto the girt of the original core and each one overlaps one side of the tie beams. Thus, the sheds' rafters are spaced four feet apart. Thin, horizontal nailers are fastened on top of the rafters. The standing seam metal roofing is secured to the nailers.

The exterior of each shed is clad in vertical board siding. About every fourth or fifth board comprises a top-hinged ventilator. The fixed vertical boards are fastened with wire-cut nails to the circular-sawn rails, the same rails that support the tiers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

Summary Statement of Significance:

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is locally significant under criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is associated with the historic context "Southern Maryland Tobacco Barns, 1790s-1959" as set forth in the Multiple Property Listing Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland. This barn meets the registration requirements of the Property Subtype: Air-Curing Tobacco Barns of the Nineteenth Century, as defined in the Multiple Property Listing. It is a significant example of a tobacco barn built in Southern Maryland during the period 1800-1830s. The barn varies the use of materials and construction methods typical to the period in an individualized way. The barn is also significant as one of only a few documented tobacco barns in Southern Maryland with evidence of the fire-curing process. The period of significance for the barn is ca. 1820, which is the approximate date of construction of the barn.

Elaboration:

This barn is associated with a 700-acre patent tract granted to Englishmen Daniel Johnson and Richard Morris in 1661. The tract was originally named "Partnership," but was subsequently renamed "Johnson's Town," presumably because Johnson acquired Morris' share (Griffith 1978). In 1665, Henry Hawkins, a prosperous planter, acquired Johnsontown. The property then passed to his son, Henry H., and then in 1751, to Henry H. Hawkins' son, Josias. Like his father and grandfather, Josias Hawkins was a wealthy planter. In the 1780s, Johnsontown included a small frame dwelling, a kitchen, two corn houses, stables, and a tenant house (Rivoire 1990). Josias Hawkins, who died on November 17, 1789, bequeathed Johnsontown to his third son, Caleb (Griffith 1978). After the frame dwelling and kitchen were destroyed by fire around 1798, Caleb Hawkins started construction on a new dwelling at Johnsontown (CH-348, National Register, May 1991) sometime between 1800 and 1810. Hawkins also likely built a granary (also CH-348) and a tobacco house (Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 1, CH-332, which was moved to St. Mary's County) (Rivoire 1990).

In 1818, Caleb Hawkins sold the property to John B. Wills, Jr. A merchant-planter, Wills moved from Port Tobacco to the Johnsontown farm after purchasing it (Rivoire 1990). After moving there, he enlarged the house and built several new agricultural buildings; the subject tobacco barns was likely among these. Wills had a slave force of about 40 to cultivate and harvest his plantation, which produced cereal grains in addition to tobacco (Rivoire 1990).

The Wills family owned Johnsontown for 126 years. Descendents of John B. Wills, Jr. lived on the property until 1906, after which it was rented to the Jamesons, who resided there until 1943. In 1944, the heirs of Augustin W. Neale, John B. Wills, Jr.'s grandson, sold Johnsontown to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

William B. Ziff. Three years later, Ziff sold the property to Charles G. Fenwick. Fenwick sold 100 acres of the tract to Haskell E. Tull in March 1951 and the remaining acreage to Maurice B. Feimster in July 1951 (Rivoire 1990). In August 1951, Feimster purchased the 100-acre tract from Tull (Griffith 1978). In 1985, J. Garrett Glover and Donna Jean Feimster Glover purchased the 18.71-acre property on which the subject tobacco barn stands; Donna Glover is Maurice Feimster's granddaughter.

According to the current property owners, this barn was one of four tobacco barns that once stood on the property. Three of the barns, including the subject barn, stood in a row at the edge of the field (Glover 2009). The earliest of the four barns was Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 1 (CH-332), which was moved to St. Mary's County in the 1980s. Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 was last used for tobacco in the 1960s (Glover 2009).

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is locally significant under criterion C in the area of Architecture as a notable example of an early-nineteenth century air-curing tobacco barn in Southern Maryland. The tobacco barn meets the registration requirements outlined in the Multiple Property Listing cover document Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland. The building retains the major physical characteristics of the Property Subtype: Air-Curing Tobacco Barns of the Nineteenth Century. These characteristics include: a heavy timber braced frame raised above the ground on stones, hewn and pit-sawn timber, mortise and tenon joinery with wood peg and wrought nail fasteners, primary structural bays on eight-foot centers, some of the original exterior horizontal siding, and a steeply-pitched gable roof of common rafters reinforced by collar beams. This barn, however, has distinctive variations on the common physical attributes of the region's other early-nineteenth century tobacco barns. It's down braces, which are common to early-nineteenth century tobacco barns in Southern Maryland, extend from the sills up to the plates. In most other documented examples, the down-bracing extends from the sills to a point on the principal vertical posts below the plates. The corner connections of sill-to-sill and post-to-sill are atypical, as these structural members are lapped and fastened with wrought nails. The connections of the principal posts and down braces along the walls employ the more common mortise and tenon joinery and wood peg fasteners. Finally, the barn does not have a cross axial plan. Doorways are positioned on the gable ends but there is no evidence of doorways on the longitudinal walls. The individualization of these attributes enhances the architectural significance of this barn.

This tobacco barn is also an important example of its property type because it is one of a few documented tobacco barns in Southern Maryland, and the only one in Charles County, to show evidence of the use of fires as part of the curing process. As discussed in the Multiple Property Listing, the use of fires to cure tobacco emerged at the turn of the nineteenth century. The fire-curing method involved lighting one or several fires on the barn floor to heat the interior. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 6

smoky flavor imparted by the fires of hardwood smothered in damp sawdust during the curing process gained popularity on the European export market by the outbreak of the War of 1812 (Hart and Mather 1961, 276, 279). The wide use of fire curing was short-lived, however, because of the threat to barns and the decreasing demand for the smoky-flavored tobacco during the 1830s. Fire-cured tobacco was still produced, but in smaller quantities (Herndon 1969, 426, 428).

Fire-cured tobacco was primarily produced in Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Central Piedmont region of Virginia and North Carolina at that time. In Southern Maryland, fire curing is known to have been practiced in Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties, primarily during the 1820s and 1830s. Planters in Southern Maryland also used fires while air-curing tobacco to remove moisture from within the barn, which could cause a mild rotting of the leaves (McKee et al. 1963, 7). This practice was continued into the twentieth century, but by the mid-twentieth century, firing typically was done by charcoal fire or by oil or gas burners spaced evenly around the floor of the barn (McKee ca. 1969).

The use of fires in the Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is evident in the gable, where the upper tier poles are blackened, signifying the presence of smoke in the barn. The barn included trenches on the north and south sides of the original core, next to the stone foundation (Glover 2009). A row of wood fires would have been lit in the trenches. Excavation of these trenches, backfilled at an unknown time, may demonstrate stained dirt cause by repeated fires.

The period of significance of the barn is ca. 1820, the approximate date of construction. The barn retains all aspects of its integrity. The integrity of design has been marginally compromised by the widening of the gable end entries and discontinuation of the sills sometime in the twentieth century in order to accommodate large equipment. Older tobacco barns were commonly adapted in these manners after the arrival of gasoline-powered tractors in the early-twentieth century. Likewise, the shed additions were a common modification as defined by the property type registration requirements. This alteration is related to its historic agricultural function and does not affect the ability of the barn to convey its original architectural design.

The integrity of materials has been partially compromised. Some of the original horizontal siding has been removed and replaced on the gable end walls with vertical siding. However, horizontal siding is intact on the gable faces. This barn is one of the few surviving early-nineteenth century barns in Southern Maryland with original horizontal siding intact. As for the loss of the horizontal siding on the longitudinal walls, the Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 retains the closely-spaced wall studs to signify the original cladding system. Thus, the absence of the cladding itself does not affect the ability of the barn to convey its historic design. Moreover, in accordance with the registration requirements in the Multiple Property Listing, the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 7

integrity can be less dependent on retaining all the principal exterior materials because of the relative rarity and threatened status of early heavy timber braced frame barns. The replacement of wood roof cladding with a metal roof was also a common modification to tobacco barns in Southern Maryland. As discussed in the property type registration requirements, a new metal roof is an acceptable alteration in this case because the barn otherwise retains the majority of the attributes from its original architectural design.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 9 Page 8

Major Bibliographical References:

Glover, J. Garrett. 2009. Conversation with the author. 14 April.

Griffith, Cheri. 1978. Johnsontown: A Farm in Charles County, Maryland. Term paper presented for Vernacular Architecture, AmCv 351. April 18.

Hart, Jon Fraser, and Eugene Cotton Mather. 1961. The Character of Tobacco Barns and Their Role in the Tobacco Economy of the United States. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 51(3):274-93.

Herndon, G. Melvin. 1969. *William Tatham and the Culture of Tobacco*. Coral Gables, Fla.: University of Miami Press.

McKee, Claude G. ca. 1969. Heating Barns. *Tobacco Views and News*, no. 5. Upper Marlboro, Md.: Maryland Tobacco Improvement Foundation.

McKee, Claude G., O. E. Street, and J. H. Hoyert. 1963. *Producing Maryland Tobacco*. University of Maryland Extension Service Miscellaneous Publication 278. College Park, Md.

Rivoire, J. Richard. 1990. Johnsontown (CH-348). Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. MSS on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 (CH-742)

Name of Property

Charles County, Maryland

County and State

Section 10 Page 9

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

A: 18 328024 4261708

B: 18 328100 4261710

C: 18 328165 4261400

D: 18 328066 4261402

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses the Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 and the adjacent tobacco field. Historically, a portion of the tobacco cured, sorted, and stripped in Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 was grown in this field. Additionally, at the edge of this field, two other tobacco barns once stood in a row next to the subject barn and were used for storing and processing the tobacco from the plantation's fields. Thus, the boundary illustrates the physical and functional context of the tobacco barn and its general historic setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CH-742
Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2

Name of Property

Charles County, MD

County and State

Section PHOTO Page 1

Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: CH-742

Name of Property: Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2

Location: Charles County, Maryland

Photographer: Peter E. Kurtze

Date taken: April 24, 2011

Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

Photo captions:

MD_CharlesCounty_JohnsontownTobaccoBarnNo2_0001.tif
View from southwest

MD_CharlesCounty_JohnsontownTobaccoBarnNo2_0002.tif
View from southeast

MD_CharlesCounty_JohnsontownTobaccoBarnNo2_0003.tif
Interior, facing northeast

MD_CharlesCounty_JohnsontownTobaccoBarnNo2_0004.tif
Interior, facing southwest

MD_CharlesCounty_JohnsontownTobaccoBarnNo2_0005.tif
View from northwest

5561 11 SE
(PORT TOBACCO)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°00' 326000m E. BALTIMORE 65 MI. LA PLATA 2 MI. 328 57'30" 38°30' 426200m N.

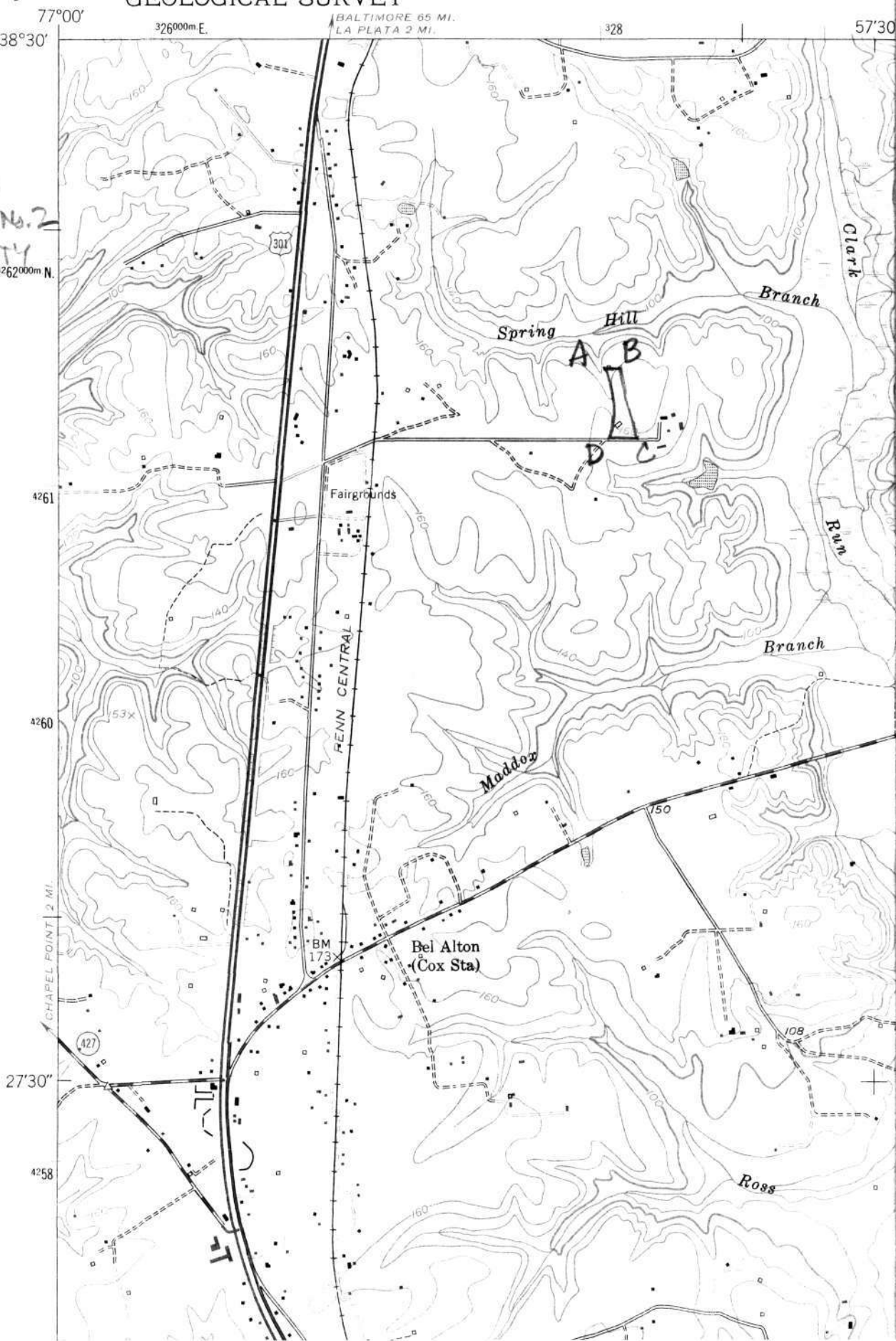
CH-742
JOHNSONTOWN
TOBACCO BARN No. 2
CHARLES COUNTY
MARYLAND

A: 18-328024-
4261078

B: 18-328100-
4261710

C: 18-328165
4261400

D: 18-328066-
4261402





CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES Co., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NORTH OF BARN AND SETTING

1 OF 12



CH-742
JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2
CHARLES CO, MD
LORI THURSBY
4/13/09
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS
2 OF 12



CH-742
JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2
CHARLES Co., MD
LORI THURSBY
4/13/09
MARYLAND SHPO
EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS
3 OF 12



CH 742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES Co., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF SIDING, WEST ELEVATION

4 of 12



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES Co., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPD

INTERIOR VIEW WEST OF FRAMING

5 of 12



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES Co., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW OF ROOF FRAMING SHOWING BLACKENED TIERS
6 OF 12



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN NO. 2

CHARLES CO., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW NORTHWEST OF FRAMING (NORTH SHED
ADDITION IN BACKGROUND)

7 OF 12



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES CO., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND

DETAIL OF SILL CONNECTION

9 OF 12



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES CO, MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF TILTED FALSE PLATE AT INTERMEDIATE POST
10 OF 12



GH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES Co., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW WEST OF FRAMING IN NORTH SHED

11 of 12



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN No. 2

CHARLES CO., MD

LORI THURSBY

4/13/09

MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW WEST OF FRAMING IN SOUTH SHED

12 OF 12

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-742

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Johnstontown Tobacco Barn No. 2

other

2. Location

street and number 9830 Johnstontown Road not for publication

city, town Bel Alton 20646 X vicinity

county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joseph and Donna Glover

street and number PO Box 326 telephone 301-743-1941

city, town La Plata state MD zip code 20646-0326

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 55 p.212

city, town La Plata liber 1165 folio 30

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☒ Other CH-348 NR Johnstontown

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-742

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is a remarkably well-preserved structure located in the Faulkner vicinity. The barn stands just south of the Spring Hill Branch and east of Clark's Run, tributaries of Zekiah Swamp. Characterized by its steeply pitched roof, early or original horizontal siding under the gables and the survival of original nailers for horizontal siding throughout, the frame structure is supported on a continuous rubble stone foundation. Shed additions were added in the 20th century and extent from either eave end. The dwelling is five bays long and three bays wide. Principal posts are pegged and supported with diagonal down braces. Original doorways on the eaves have been enlarged to accommodate larger equipment in the 20th century. The roof ridge runs from east to west.

The barn is divided into two sections by a massive center post supported by diagonal braces that start at the eave walls and extend toward the center. Each eave wall includes four rows of interior rails that are notched into the frame's principal posts. Nails include hand forged tops and the timbers are pit sawn. The barn has three tiers under the ceiling joist and five above. Windbraces used in the placement of the roof rafters are still present. One of the structure's most remarkable features is the surviving evidence of smoke, presumably used as a method of curing tobacco.

According to the current property owners, this was one of four barns that once stood on the property. Johnsontown Tobacco Barn (CH-332) was identified by Rick Rivoire in 1978, prior to it being dismantled, moved at least partially reassembled in St.. Mary's County. It is the only known barn to survive on the original Johnsontown property (CH-348).

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-742

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1815-1840

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1815-1840

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Johnsontown Tobacco Barn is one of a small handful of tobacco barns to survive in Charles County that were originally built before the Civil War. It is also the only documented structure known to show evidence of the fire curing process. The structure was originally associated with the 18th century Johnsontown property owned by the Hawkins family. By 1798, a modest dwelling and kitchen standing on the property had been destroyed by fire and work began on the construction of the existing dwelling and granary (CH-348 NR) and the relocated tobacco barn No. 1.(CH-332) Around 1810 Caleb Hawkins, who is believed to have been responsible for the site's development, relocated to Kentucky. In 1818 Johnsontown was sold to John Baptist Wills, a former resident of Port Tobacco and a merchant-planter who owned about 40 slaves.

The process of fire cured tobacco was prompted by the European preference for "bright" tobacco, a highly-colored, streaked tobacco that acquired a smoky flavor. According to one 1821 source, fire-curing was a process in which fires were set in the floor of a tobacco barn. In the firing process, the tobacco is of a brighter color and is more quickly prepared for packing. In nearby Prince George's County, a farmer commented in 1821:

"It requires eight or ten cart loads of wood, say three to four cords to cure the contents of a house of ordinary size -- that is fifty by twenty-four feet, the usual size now built in Prince George's County, of this State. The manner of curing in that County, where the operation is much practiced is to kindle two rows of fires nearly the whole length of the house, approaching each end as night as can safely be done, say six feet; two fires being about equidistant from each other, and from the sides of the house. To make these fires a shallow trench is dug in the floor, which keeps the logs from rolling and spreading fire."

During the 1830's demand for the bright, fancy cured tobacco dropped although fire curing continued into the 1840's when the inherent threat to barns associated with fire curing and the growing popularity of flue-cured tobacco made most planters turn away from the earlier method. However, firing to counteract the effects of dampness and humidity that could cause mildew.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-742

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 18.71 acres

Acreage of historical setting 600 acres

Quadrangle name Popes Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2 is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map No.55, Parcel 212.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 6/26/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

CH-742

Johnsontown Tobacco Barn No. 2

9830 Johnsontown Rd.

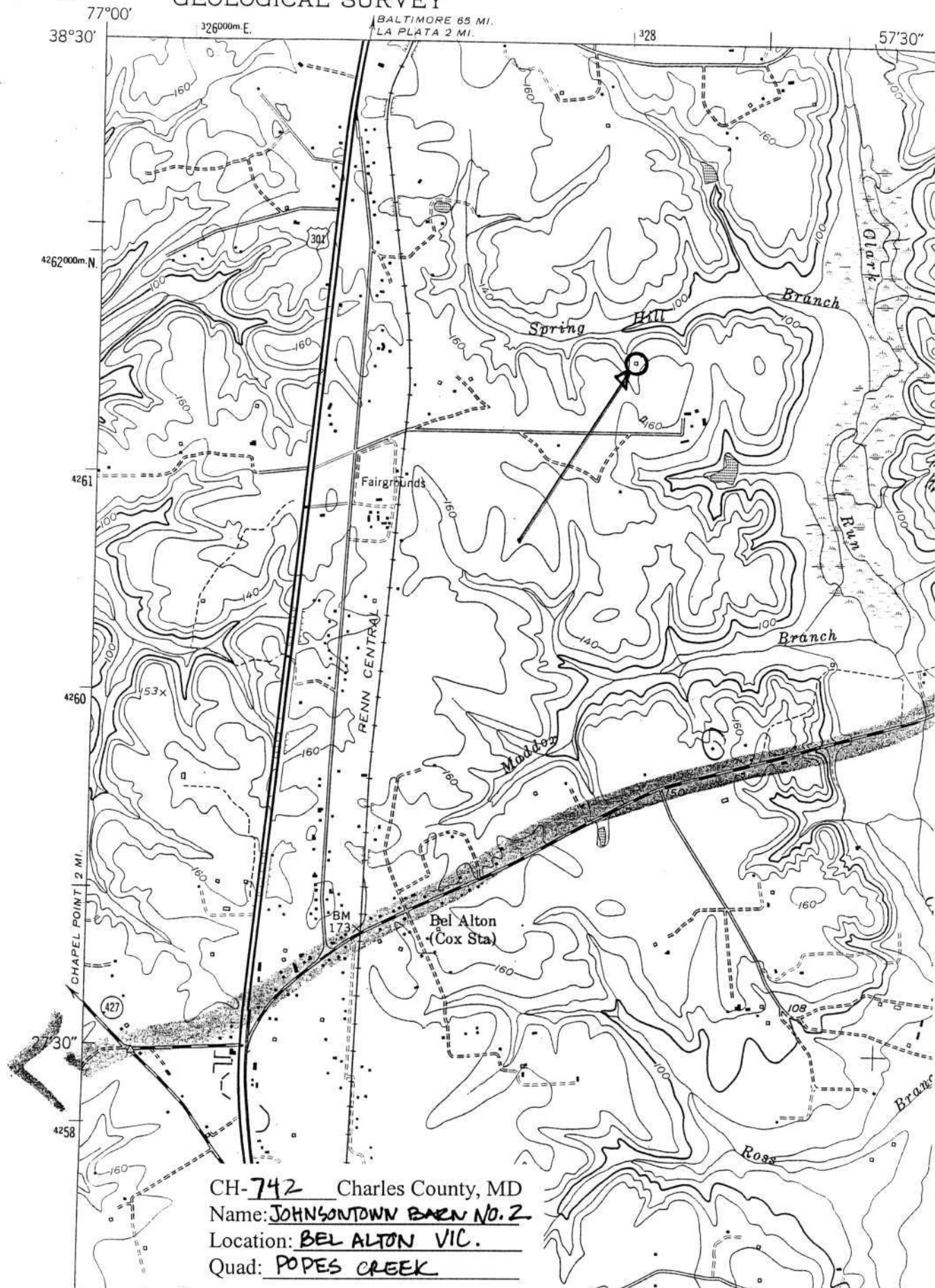
Bel Alton

Charles County, Maryland

For additional documentation of this resource see the "Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn Project"; call number FRR Mary 21

5561 II SE
(PORT TOBACCO)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN NO. 2

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

4/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING NE

10E3



CH-742
JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN NO. 2
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY
6/2002
MD SHPO
LOOKING W
26F3



CH-742

JOHNSONTOWN TOBACCO BARN NO. 2

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

INTERIOR, ~~NE~~ NE CORNER LOOKING SW

30F3